

Peace Lutheran Church

1900 E. Lincoln Hwy. P.O. Box 205, New Lenox, IL 60451

815-485-5327; www.peacenewlenox.org

e-mail: peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org

Gary Erickson, Interim Pastor
Shari Simon, Diaconal Minister
Matt Piet, organist/accompanist

Our Vision Statement: *Sharing Peace Faithfully*

Our Mission: *To bring people into contact with the Gospel and help them grow in their relationship to God in Christ.*

Please check our Peace website www.peacenewlenox.org regularly for updates.

Check out [February Newsletter](#) & [Sunday School News](#)

We live stream our service on Sundays at 8:30am

This Week and Beyond

Sat., Feb. 24 – Worship service 5pm

Pastor Gary & Pat Thank you Celebration 6pm

Sun., Feb. 25 – Worship Service 8:30am & 11am

Pastor Gary & Pat Thank you Celebration 9:45am

Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am – Education Hour 9:45am

Mon., Feb. 26 – Ruth Circle Quilting 9am

Coffee & Conversation at Gost Coffee 10am

Senior Exercise Group 12pm

Tues., Feb. 27 – The Chosen Viewing & Discussion 10am

Wed., Feb. 28 – Bible Study 10am

Senior Exercise Group 11:15am

Midweek Lenten Worship 6pm

Midweek Lenten soup, sandwich & conversation 6:30pm

8th gr. Confirmation 7pm

Thurs., Feb. 29 – *The Chosen* discussion on Zoom 7:30pm

Fri., Mar. 1- Sun., Mar. 3 – Antioch

Sat., Mar. 2 – Worship service 5pm

Sun., Mar. 3 – Worship Service 8:30am & 11am

Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am – Education Hour 9:45am

Easter Lily Order Deadline

Mon., Mar. 4 – Coffee & Conversation at Gost Coffee 10am

Senior Exercise Group 12pm

Tues., Mar. 5 – The Chosen Viewing & Discussion 10am

Wed., Mar. 6 – Bible Study 10am

Senior Exercise Group 11:15am

Midweek Lenten Service 6pm

Lenten Soup & Sandwich 6:30pm

7th gr. Confirmation 7pm

Thurs., Mar. 7 – *The Chosen* discussion on Zoom 7:30pm

Sat., Mar. 9 – Worship service 5pm – Girl Scout Weekend

Sun., Mar. 10 – Worship Service 8:30am & 11am – Girl Scout Weekend

Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am – Education Hour 9:45am

Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt 9:45am

NYG Meeting 9:45am

Mon., Mar. 11 – Coffee & Conversation at Gost Coffee 10am

Ruth Circle Quilting 9am

Senior Exercise Group 12pm

Tues., Mar. 12 – The Chosen Viewing & Discussion 10am

Thank You

Thank you to all the people who are watching our weekly worship and, for all your support financially, in prayer, with words of encouragement, acts of service and more! Your online gifts last week of \$2,457 and mailed in & weekend offerings of \$6,729 help us to keep doing ministry locally, nationally, and around the world!

Prayer List

If your prayer request is for yourself or you have the other person's permission, you may be specific [for example, skin cancer]. For anyone, you may be more general [for example, "a decision to be made," or "health"]. We will keep people on the pray-for list for 60 days unless you tell us otherwise.

The family of Robert Mathews, the family of Karen Krneta, Mike Bohl (retinal tear and detachment), Arlene Dittman, Sharon Fullriede, Claudia Green, Dan Heraty, Denise Jones, Chris Fehrenkamp, Cathy Richardson, Georgia Piech-Pander, Eric Bartels...Paul Peterson, Brian Ring, Howard Vanick, the McGowan family, Bill Park (rapidly degenerating Parkinson's disease), Linda Pasternak, Russ George, the Plunk family, Roy Kehoe (recovery), Darryl Snyder & family, Ken Tague, Erv Pander

New Announcements

Annual Meeting Results

Our Annual Meeting on Feb. 18 was another opportunity to celebrate the ministries of people doing God's work. We are very grateful for all those who were nominated to serve on the Council – Charlie Brugler, Don Lafferty, Syndy Lindbloom, Jamie McClellan, Mark Muehlnickel, Andrew Smothers & Marylynn Tyler. Thank you also to our Election Tellers – Mike Miller, Kathy Sons & Eric Wesel. Those elected for a two-year council term were Don Lafferty, Jamie McClellan, Mark Muehlnickel, Andrew Smothers & Marylynn Tyler. Nominated to serve as our youth representative was Morgan Barlow. Our Nominating Committee for 2025 will consist of Dave Johnson, Diane Weber, Syndy Lindbloom, Todd Klock, Janelle Tague & Cathy Rumbaugh.

Girl Scout Weekend – Mar. 9 & 10

The annual Girl Scout Weekend is coming up on Mar. 9 & 10. We invite Girl Scouts to wear your uniforms to church.

Peace Page Turners – Sun., Mar. 10

Our next meeting will be Sun., Mar. 10 at 9:45am. We will be discussing *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. Copies of the book are available to be checked out at church. Everyone is welcome!

Next month on Apr. 28 - *The Sisterhood - the Secret History of Women at the CIA* by Liza Mundy.

Men's Breakfast – Sat., Mar. 23 * (Feb. 24 breakfast has been postponed)*****

Our next men's breakfast at Peace will be on Sat., Mar. 23 at 10am. Breakfast will be catered by Teardrop Café. Come eat, have a cup of coffee or juice, and get to know the other men worshipping here at Peace. Men ages 16 and older are invited to this new and fun opportunity. Please use the sign up in the bulletin or [sign up here](#).

Holy Week and Easter Worship

Thursday, March 28

6pm - Meal in the Upper Room

7:30pm - Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, March 29

10am - Cross Walk in New Lenox – Starts at St. Jude's Church

7:30 p.m. - Good Friday Worship

Saturday, March 30

5pm - Easter Eve Worship - Transition from dark to light

Sunday, March 31

8:30 & 11am - Communion Festival Worship

9:45am - Easter Breakfast – Reservations are needed

Easter Breakfast & Baskets – Deadline to [sign up](#) is Mar. 17

Our Easter breakfast will be at 9:45am in fellowship hall. The breakfast will be catered so we are asking for everyone coming to please sign up by Mar. 17, so we have an accurate count. The menu will be scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, French toast, Ashford potatoes, danish, fruit, Irish soda bread, Irish bacon, coffee & orange juice. Breakfast cost is on a donation basis. There also will be Easter baskets for the kids 12 & under who have signed up. If you would like to volunteer to help set up at 9am on Sat., Mar. 30, help during the breakfast or clean up afterwards, please use [the sign up](#) here or in the bulletin to let us know that also.

Business Clothing Collection - Mar. 1

Peace has generously provided to people who are unemployed find jobs by dressing for success. We're looking for business attire and business casual clothing, including gently used shoes. Look through your closets for suits, sports coats, ties, shirts, blouses, dresses, skirts, pants, sweaters, whatever you think would help someone get and keep a job! Please bring your items to church between Mar. 1 - Apr. 30 and look for the bin in the narthex.

Coming Up This Week and Beyond

Coffee & Conversation at Gost Coffee – Mondays

Every Monday morning from 10-11am, Deacon Shari will be holding office hours at Gost Coffee on Schoolhouse Road in New Lenox. Please come grab a cup of joe and share in conversation.

Viewing and Discussion of *The Chosen*

On Tuesdays & Thursdays Deacon Shari is offering a new study group, discussing the series called *The Chosen* by Dallas Jenkins. *The Chosen* is the first television series based on the life of Jesus. We will be offering two options, in person to watch the episode on and then discuss on Tuesday mornings from 10-11:30am and Thursday evenings via zoom at 7:30pm to discuss the episode you have watched on your own.

Tavern Talk – Tues., Mar. 19

On the third Tuesday of the month, we will have an opportunity for fellowship and conversation. Deacon Shari will gather at Hickory Creek Brewery on Schoolhouse Road in New Lenox. Come grab a drink of choice and a slice of pizza. Pizza on us, drinks on you. It is also open mic night at the Brewery so feel free to strut your stuff if you would like! We will be there from 6:30-8:30pm, come as you are able!

Announcements

Thank You celebration for Pastor Gary – Sat., Feb. 24 & Sun., Feb. 25

Because I knew you, I have been changed for the better! Come and celebrate the time we have spent in ministry with Pastor Gary and his wife Pat. On Sat., Feb. 24 after the 5pm service and Sun., Feb. 25 at 9:45am, we will have snacks and spend time saying thank you and goodbye to Pastor Gary and Pat.

Midweek Lenten Worship Starting Feb. 21 - Holy Lament: O God, our help in times of trouble.

Lent is a season of renewal focusing on the death and resurrection of Jesus. During Lent we reflect on our own faith journey through the rich tradition of Christian reflection. Throughout the ages Christians have been "leaning on the everlasting arms" of God in good times and in times of trouble. Please join us on the Wednesdays between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week at 6pm for worship and at 6:30pm for soup, sandwich & conversation. Bring your own sandwich, soup will be provided.

February 28: Psalm 42

March 6: Psalm 88

March 13: Psalm 13

March 20: Psalm 44:1-10, 13, 17-26

Midweek Lenten Soup Provider

After our midweek Lenten worship series, we will be having soup, sandwich & conversation at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. We are looking for 2 people each week to provide soup for the group. If you would like to volunteer, please use the [sign up](#) and the office will contact you with more information. We need volunteers for Feb. 28, Mar. 13 & 20.

Installation Service for Pastor Amy – Sun., Mar. 17

On Sunday, March 17 we will be having one service at 10am to install Pastor Amy Michelson as our new senior pastor. This will be an exciting celebration and worship service! There will be a luncheon at Gatto's to follow, please see the announcement. We hope that everyone will attend and pack the house as we celebrate this exciting new adventure.

Pastor Amy's Installation Celebration Luncheon – Sun., Mar. 17

Please join us in celebrating the installation of Pastor Amy with a luncheon at Gatto's Restaurant on Sun., Mar. 17 at 11:30am. Reservations are required by Mar. 10. Because this will be a catered event, we will need the number of people attending by the deadline date. Make an [Online Reservation](#) or sign up in the bulletin.

If you would like to make a donation to help defray the cost of this event, please put those in an envelope marked Installation Celebration Luncheon. They can be put in the offering plate or given to the office.

Meal in the Upper Room - Thurs., Mar. 28

You are invited to the Maundy Thursday celebration of the Meal in the Upper Room on Thurs., Mar. 28 at 6pm (please note new time). The Passover is a celebration of the Jewish people's emancipation from slavery during the pharaoh's rule in Egypt, led by Moses. We are reminded of the hardship that the Jews endured before achieving freedom. We will be inspired by God's word and special music. Because of the special nature of this event, many volunteers are needed. Please use the [sign-up online](#) or in the bulletin if you are willing to help or if you would like to attend. **Deadline to sign up is Mar. 17.**

Easter Lily Order Deadline – Mar. 3

Each year at Easter we invite people to remember and honor people or events that are important to them by donating an Easter lily to decorate our sanctuary. Order forms are available in the narthex. The deadline to order is Sun., Mar. 3. The cost of each lily is \$17.

VBS Planning Meeting – Wed., Apr. 3

Our VBS is amazing and involves lots of people helping in many different ways. We invite you to be a part of the planning crew to join in the fun of putting this great event together. The next planning meeting will be Wed., Apr. 3 at 6pm. Please let us know if you would like to help with this ministry in any way.

Antioch Volunteers Needed

Our Antioch Retreat is a highlight of the year for our youth. We are looking for adult volunteers to help with the many different moving parts of this event. If you would like to help out in any way, please use the sign-up slip in the bulletin or call the church office. If you have any questions, please see Deacon Shari.

VBS July 30-Aug. 2

Save the date! Our 2024 Vacation Bible School planning is in the works. Please save the dates of Tues., July 30 – Fri., Aug. 7 and watch the bulletin for more details and to sign up.

Ruth Circle Quilters Needs

The Ruth Circle Quilters have once again donated 50 quilts to the Manteno Veterans Home to be included in their baskets for those in need. Now they are asking for your help. The Quilters are in need of gently used blankets, mattress pads and fleece throws. These items are used as fillers for the quilts so if they are not perfect, they still may be able to use them. They can not use comforters or very thick mattress pads, because they are too thick for needles to sew. As spring cleaning may be approaching, please keep the quilting group in mind. Please bring your items to the church office anytime or when the Quilters are meeting, and they will be put to good use.

2024 Flower Chart

Our new 2024 dates are available to donate flowers for the altar. Look for the flower chart by Fellowship Hall and sign up for any date you would like. You may call or email the church office to sign up also. Cost per arrangement is \$20.

Rehearsals

Bell Choir Rehearsal – Tuesdays

Bell Choir rehearsals will be on Tuesdays at 7pm. Please join us! For more information contact the church office.

Adult Choir Welcomes New Voices – Wednesdays

Has a little voice been telling you to make a joyful noise unto the Lord? Are you singing in the car? Annoying friends and family with karaoke? Then the Adult Choir would LOVE to welcome you! Men and women. No auditions, no experience! Adult Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7pm. If you would like information, please contact the office.

Ladies Ensemble Invites You to Join! – Sat., Mar. 9

Calling all Ladies!!! The Ladies Ensemble is a fun group of Peace women who love to sing and fellowship. Our next practice is Sat., Mar. 9 at 3pm. We only practice once a month and if you love to sing, please consider joining this joyous group! Please contact the church office for more information.

Children's Choir Rehearsal – Sundays

Children's Choir rehearsals are on Sundays at 9am in Fellowship Hall for anyone 2nd - 8th grade who loves to sing! For more information, please contact the church office.

Youth

Confirmation Schedule

7th Grade – Mar. 6

8th Grade – Feb. 28, Mar. 13

National Youth Gathering Meeting – Sun., Mar. 10

Those youth who are registering for NYG, please join Deacon Shari at church on Sun., Mar. 10, at 9:45am in the education wing. Next meeting is on Sun., Apr. 14.

7 & 8th / HS Antioch Retreat – Mar. 1-3 Sign up Today!!!

7th - 12th grade youth are invited to gather for this weekend-long spiritual retreat. The name Antioch comes from the book of Acts, after a group of people studied together and learned what it meant to be a Christian (Act 11). This retreat will be a time of prayer, worship, friendship and fun. This year's retreat will be from 7 pm, Friday, March 1 until approximately 1pm, Sunday, March 3. The cost of the retreat is \$25 (don't forget about the Hope Fund if needed). You can still sign up but will not receive a t-shirt since the deadline is past. Friends are also welcome. If you have any questions, or if you are interested in participating, but not sure you can come for the whole weekend, talk to Deacon Shari! Registration in the narthex. [Printable Registration Form](#)

College Information Packets

We have available an excellent packet of materials for all who are in the college search stage of life. Look for them on the counter in the narthex.

Groups

Senior Exercise Group – Mondays & Wednesdays

Join us for a low impact, do what you can exercise program for seniors. We meet twice a week: Mondays 12 noon -1:00pm and Wednesdays 11:15am-12:15pm.

Ruth Circle Quilting – Feb. 26 at 9:00am

Quilting meets every other Monday at 9:00am. You are welcome to join this great group!

Prayer Shawl Group – Wed., Apr. 3

The Prayer Shawl Group will not be meeting during Lent. They meet next on Wed., Apr. 3 at 6pm and meets every other Wednesday. A prayer shawl is a shawl prepared for and prayed over for someone that is hurting so they can wrap themselves in God's love. We could provide you with simple patterns or you could create your own. You may also create shawls at home and drop them at church if you are not able to attend in person. Questions, please contact the church office.

Trailblazers – Tues., Mar. 19

We invite anyone who'd like to get together with some others who are anything but over the hill to come together on Tues., Mar. 19, at 12pm. Bring \$5; the food will be provided.

Men's Dartball – Tues., Mar. 12

We will meet monthly on the second Tuesday of the month from 7:30pm - 9:00pm in Fellowship Hall. No prior experience needed or helpful. Please join us!

Adult Fellowship Green Bunco Night – Sat., Mar. 16

Come join Adult Fellowship as they celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a "Green Bunco Night" on Sat., Mar. 16 at 6pm. Wear something green to bring out the Irish in you! Also, we will have our usual white elephant gift exchange...but with a twist - all gifts should be green! Dig around and find your wackiest "green elephant" gift, bring a snack or appetizer to share and join us!! Please use the [online sign up](#) if you will be attending.

Tuesdays at Peace Book Club – Tues., Mar. 5

The Tuesdays at Peace book club will be meeting on Mar. 5 at 10am. We will be discussing *Heaven is for Real* by Todd Burpo. All are welcome!

Addiction & Family Support Group – Tuesdays

Is someone you love abusing prescription or street drugs? If you are feeling all alone and would like some support from other parents, siblings, friends and spouses who are traveling the same road you are on, then this group may be for you. We support all roads to recovery, so we share what has or hasn't worked for us. Meetings are Tuesdays from 7 - 8:30pm.

Faith Development & Education**Sunday Adult Education Class Topics**

The Sunday Adult Education Class meets at 9:55am.

Wednesday Bible Study

We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am. Why not join us online or in person to learn more about this amazing resource? If you have any questions, call the office. You do not need to know anything about the Bible to join us!

Everybody Read

Our desire to have people read a common Bible passage is part of our Book of Faith effort. Each month we pick a passage, invite everyone to read it sometime that month. February's passage is Philippians 1:3-6.

Hearing Assistance Available

We are happy to offer wireless receivers to assist anyone with a hearing impairment. Please ask an usher if you would like to use one.

Helping Others**Prayer Shawls Available**

Do you know someone who is in need of being wrapped in prayer, to know they are being prayed for? Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has prayer shawls available for you or someone you know. A prayer shawl is a knitted or crocheted shawl that is made with prayerful meditation. Please put in your requests in the Prayer Shawl box in the narthex. You may also contact the office directly for a shawl.

Santa Cruz's Food Pantry Needs List

Santa Cruz has a food & resource pantry for people of their neighborhood who are hungry or in need. You can bring donations anytime and put them in the baskets by Fellowship Hall. They are in need of bottled water & juice, toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, hand soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream, canned soup, applesauce, cereal, Jell-O, pudding, beans, rice, coffee, powdered cream, sugar, any type of treats - pretzels, chips, popcorn, etc.

Small Toy Collection

If you have any small toys like McDonald's Happy Meal toys or dollar store toys laying around your house and would like to donate them, please look for the bin in the hall going to Fellowship Hall. These toys are donated to a school to be used as prizes for under privileged students.

Because of You and Your Gifts

In her Malian village, 67-year-old Aminata has been raising her 6-year-old granddaughter, Oumou, by herself since her husband passed away years ago. Aminata pounds a local mineral into a powder that she sells to be used to make the external veneer of cooking pots. The long periods of sitting and pounding leave her in horrible pain. Aminata's deepest desire is to care for her granddaughter, but she just can't work as much as she used to. The two often go hungry, and when Oumou complains of a stomachache or headache, it breaks Aminata's heart. "Words can't express how bad I feel. I can't help her out of this situation. I have no means to do that," Aminata says.

Today, you can be God's hands and feet on Earth to help women like Aminata. Your loving gift to Lutheran World Relief can ensure that families like hers receive kits containing essential grains like rice and millet that offer them sustenance — and hope for a better future.

Please check our Peace website www.peacenewlenox.org regularly for update